[0011] One example of a polysaccharide that can be ionically **cross-linked** is **alginate**. **Alginate** can be ionically **cross-linked** to itself with metal cations, including Mg2+; Ni2+; Ca2+; Sr2+; Ba2+; Zn2+; Cd2+; Cu2+; Pb2+; Fe3+; and Al3+. In some embodiments, the cation is Ca2+. A second polysaccharide, such as dextran, can also be physically trapped, e.g., by the network formed by the ionic cross-linking of the first polysaccharide. Dextran can be in the form of cross-linked beads, e.g., dextran that has been previously cross-linked to itself. Dextran can be covalently linked to the bandage, e.g. by linking dextran to the cellulose with epichlorohydrin.